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Public participation in environmental decision-making in China

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PROPOSITIONS belonging to the PhD thesis

Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making in China: Towards an Ecosystem Approach

Huanlin Lang – 13 November 2014, Groningen

1. The approaches adopted by Chinese citizens to protect their environmental rights and interests are relatively underdeveloped.
2. There is still a considerable gap between current Chinese law and practice and the requirements of the ecosystem approach for public participation.
3. The ecosystem approach should be integrated into public participation in Chinese environmental decision-making and used to guide its practice.
4. The public should have a say in the screening stage of an environmental decision.
5. The impartiality of organisers of public participation in China should be guaranteed.
6. In the process of public participation information should be flowing in a multidirectional way; local knowledge and experiences should be seriously considered by decision makers.
7. The common good should be appreciated by all actors in the public participation process and be embodied in the final decision.
8. Leading a simple life will yield a clear mind, and having inner peace will help you see far into the world. (淡泊以明志，宁静以致远。)